Leicester, March 18/79.

Dear friend Garrison,

S.J What Frank wrote me, some little time ago, about Oliver Johnson, the break-down of the O. Journal so far as he is concerned, and his anxious feelings for the future of his family & himself, has caused me no little sorrow, & mental questioning as to what cd. be done for him. Has he got any position, do you know? or has he prospect of any?

Somebody ought to write the history of the Whole American Movement against Slavery in the United States, from a Moral point of view. I lay that down as an axiom. I consider it a self-evident truth. — Those whom we have ardently desired ~~to~~ to ~~Relate~~ write it, hitherto have declined the task.

MS. A. 1.2 v. 40 p. 91 (6)

Either it was too large and laborious for their largely-spent powers; or they had stood too near the centre of that movement to be (as they might think) its best interpreters.

Mr. Wilson's valuable and indispensable history is chiefly political, and deals with the movements after the real causes, the struggles and labors of long years, had succeeded in creating the movement.

We need a faithful history, — names, dates, places, events — the humblest and most unobserved — of the inception & growth of the Antislavery Cause, — that Cause, which political journalists and parties seized upon, when they came to see clearly that it was to grow & prevail, but only scouted, or altogether ignored, in its forming period.

The history of Congressional debates and projects and votes is easily done; it is only

judgment; and his style of writing is pure, clear, forcible, for he knows the movements almost all about. I suppose Mr Phillips might not heartily support him. — If O. J. were called by the Old A. S. people to do this work, I think a little fund might be raised, for him to work upon. A [?] publication could doubtless be secured. An exceedingly needed book w. be obtained. Yrs truly S. J. May

transferring to a book the already-recorded
action. The grand movement of humanity
and conscience, which at first was as the
least of all seeds, which a man takes
& buries in the earth, is that which needs
to be written, for the information of the
coming inquirer, for the satisfaction of
the student, for the guidance of every
patriot, as map and chart and compass
for all who in time to come are to do
battle for man, justice, & liberty —
and (which is the same) for God & truth.

Some who might have written that
history have gone hence. Others, who
might so truly, feelingly, eloquently,
instructively, write it, still remain on
earth, but do it not. Will they ever leave
even their personal recollections & reflections,
in any compact, accessible form?

tidy movement: and his style of writing is pure, clear, forcible, & he knows the movements of human nature & human history. — Yr. A. G. more called by the old st. Seville to do it.

When I think of Edmund Quincy gone,
— of Stephen Foster broken & helpless (who
might have contributed so curious a history
of certain very peculiar aspects of the work)
— of Maria Chapman, Anne & Caroline
Weston, Lydia Maria Child, John G.
Whittier, each one of whom could tell so
rich a story of such wonderful personal
experiences — to say nothing of Wendell Phillips,
Lucretia Mott, and yourself, — and that
we have, and are not likely to have, any
such personal contribution from any of them, —
I cannot feel reconciled, cannot be willing, —
can hardly patiently think of it. True, all have
made indelible marks, all have left records
as the time went by. Now (not a stranger) some one of them should
gather up the whole, some one in perfect unity with
them, in full understanding of their purpose & motives,
some active participator, — and present it, a connected
clear, & readable history, in moderate compass, to these
coming times. — Is O. Johnson the man to do this?

His heart surely would be in it. He has a clear head, and an eye to

MS. A. 1.2 v. 40 p. 91(6)